

# Geologic Timescale Notes

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- the Paleozoic, Mesozoic and Cenozoic eras make up 15% of  $\oplus$ 's history (~600 million years); most fossils are found in rocks of this age.
- we lump "proterozoic" and "archeozoic" into the "Precambrian" era which makes up 85% of the 4.5 billion years of  $\oplus$ 's existence; not much life on  $\oplus$  in this time
- eras, periods and epochs are divided based on the dominant life form or large event (ie mass extinctions separate eras)
- Paleozoic - age of the invertebrates
- Mesozoic - age of the reptiles
- Cenozoic - age of the mammals
- we live in the Recent epoch of the Quaternary period of the Cenozoic era (top of the chart)
- names of periods often come from where a large outcrop of that age rock was found (ie Pennsylvanian)